safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufactures (OMEs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. In addition, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Limiting concessions to the developing countries in WTO draft

†1705. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that developed countries have proposed in the WTO draft to limit the concessions of the developing countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if proposal is implemented, the protection to special product sectors would be in danger;

(c) if so, the details of the draft; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INUDSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) In the negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the developed countries have been demanding market access into developing countries by seeking to limit the special and differential treatment being granted to the latter. On the other hand, the developing countries have been resisting any attempts to limit the concessions available to them so as to preserve the development dimension of the Doha Round. Based on these negotiations, the Chairman of the Agriculture negotiating group in the revised draft modalities of 6 December, 2008 has proposed that 12% of total agriculture tariff lines could be designated as Special Products (SPs) taking an average tariff cut of 11%. Out of these 12% lines designated as SPs; 5% of total tariff lines, will not take any cuts.

(d) The government has been negotiating for self-designation of an appropriate number of Special Products (SPs) to take care of India's food security, livelihood security, and rural development needs. The government has also been working closely with the G-33 coalition of developing countries in order to achieve the most favourable outcome possible.

FDI by PIOs in aviation and print media

1706. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to integrate foreign direct investment (FDI) regulations to bring them at par with those of mature economies;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would allow 100 per cent FDI in aviation sector for person of Indian Origin (PIOs) including domestic airlines and allow person of Indian origin (PIOs) to invest in print media upto 100 per cent; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. The policy on FDI, including policy for investment by Person of Indian Origin (PIOs), is reviewed on a continuing basis for addressing specific concerns, such as security, and providing a conducive investment climate to attract FDI.

(c) and (d) As per extant policy, FDI is permitted in the Civil Aviation sector as under:—

(i) Scheduled domestic airlines- FDI up to 49% and investment by Non-resident Indians (NRIs) up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route subject to no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines and sectoral guidelines.

(ii) Non-scheduled airlines/chartered airlines and Cargo airlines- FDI up to 74% and investment by NRIs up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route subject to no direct or indirect participation by foreign airlines in Non-scheduled and chartered airlines.

(iii) Ground Handling services- FDI up to 74% and investment by NRIs up to 100% is permitted under the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations and security clearance.

In so far as Print Media is concerned, the policy permits FDI, including investment by Foreign Institutional Investors, NRIs, PIOs, up to 26% in Indian entities engaged in news and current affairs with prior Government approval.

Shifting office of Development Commissioner from Kandla to Gandhinagar

1707. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat is considering setting up of 51 SEZs at various locations for availability of infrastructure in the State and effective coordinations;

(b) whether Government is considering shifting of the Office of the Development Commissioner to Gandhinagar from Kandla; and

(c) if so, the time by when decision is likely to be taken in this regard?